



Embassy of the United States of America

Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown

April 19, 2011

Contact: Mark Carr

Tel: 076 515 000

U.S. Ambassador Plants Tree, Sows Seeds of Hope at Leicester Peak

United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone Michael S. Owen planted a tree to commemorate Earth Day and raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and reforestation. In the shadows of Leicester Peak, during a brief ceremony at the six-acre lot behind the American Embassy in South Ridge, Ambassador Owen said he was committed to restoring a large part of the property to its original condition. He noted that Earth Day – which falls on April 22nd – was a “time to stop and reflect on our dependence on the environment, and the importance of clean water, clean air, and robust biodiversity for our overall quality of life.”

While acknowledging that planting a single tree was a simple step, Ambassador Owen emphasized that this act was symbolic of the U.S. Embassy’s long-term commitment to improve the local environment. Over time, the Embassy plans to plant other native vegetation and support the re-introduction of indigenous birds and wildlife. He expressed solidarity with concerned Sierra Leoneans and millions of others throughout Africa and the world at large who will mark Earth Day 2011 by doing their small part to preserve the environment.

Across the globe, U.S. diplomatic missions are working to increase environmental awareness, promote biodiversity, and support wise stewardship of natural resources. For more information on the U.S. Department of State’s “Greening Diplomacy Initiative,” please see <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/plrmo/156053.htm>.